

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CG-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /040 W

----- 061185

R 270610 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151

INFO NAVELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3530

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MRR, AS, US

SUBJ: PROJECT OMEGA: USE OF EMBASSY NOTES IN DFA  
PRESENTATION TO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 123985, CANBERRA 3424

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SOME CONSTERNATION AT USG POSITION THAT EMBASSY NOTES RELATING TO OMEGA NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE MADE PART OF UNCLASSIFIED SUBMISSION TO JOINT COMMITTEE. COPIES OF FINAL TEXT OF SUBMISSION SENT TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, DUE TO ARRIVE JUNE 28. IT EXPECTED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WILL RAISE MATTER OF CLASSIFICATION AT TIME COPIES OF SUBMISSION ARE PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. AS REQUESTED REF A, EMBOFF PRESENTED THIRD/ PERSON NOTE TO DFA JUNE 26 QUOTING USG POSITION WITH REGARD TO USE OF EMBASSY NOTES IN DFA PRESENTATION TO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE. BROWN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE AT CONTENT OF NOTE SINCE AS REPORTED REF B, DFA HAD ASSUMED THERE WAS NO PROBLEM OF USING THE OMEGA NEGOTIATION NOTES IN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF DFA SUBMISSION ALREADY COMMENTED UPON APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON  
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DEPARTMENTS. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THIS DRAFT TEXT OF DFA SUBMISSION STATES CLEARLY ON COVER INTENTION TO MAKE WHOLE DOCUMENT UNCLASSIFIED BEFORE PRESENTATION TO JOINT COMMITTEE.

3. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WE WERE JOINED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FLOOD, WHO TOGETHER WITH BROWN MADE FOLLOWING CONTENTIONS: A) ALTHOUGH NOTES IN FINAL VERSION OF PRESENTATION ARE INCLUDED AS ANNEXES, THEIR SUBSTANCE IS COVERED AS INTERGRAL PART BEGINNING ON PAGE 11 OF FINAL TEXT. B) TWO OF THE NOTES, I. E. EMBASSY NOTE #82 OF APRIL 18, 1970 AND EMBASSY NOTE #020 OF JANUARY 28, 1971, WERE QUOTED IN DRAFT PAPER APPROVED BY WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS. THESE NOTES HAVE MERELY CHANGED POSITION WITHIN THE PAPER FROM THE BODY OF THE TEXT TO A PLACE IN THE ANNEX. C) DFA WOULD BE IN DIFFICULT POSITION IN TRYING TO MAKE NOTES CLASSIFIED AT THIS STAGE SINCE FINAL VERSION OF SUBMISSION WAS PRESENTED TO SECRETARY OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON JUNE 25 AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. DFA REASONING IS THAT TO RESTRICT NOTES TO USE ONLY BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD IMPLY SOME KIND OF HOLDING BACK OF THIS INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC. THEY WOULD NOT FEEL ABLE, IN ANY CASE, TO CONTROL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THEIR SUBMISSION NOW SINCE IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED. D) DFA OFFICIALS NOTED THAT NOW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS VERY KEEN TO SUPPORT CONCEPT OF FREE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO PUBLIC TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY. THEY IMPLIED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY KEEPING EMBASSY NOTES CLASSIFIED IN THIS CONTEXT.

4. FOREGOING ARE EXAMPLES OF KINDS OF ARGUMENTS WHICH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE WITH DEPARTMENT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. DFA OFFICIALS STATED EMBARGO HAS BEEN PLACED ON RELEASE OF SUBMISSION UNTIL JULY 4 TO PUBLIC IN AUSTRALIA IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS EMBARGO HAS TO DO WITH REFERENCE TO OMEGA STATION IN TRINIDAD. BROWN FURTHER NOTED THAT WHILE CONFIDENTIAL

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DFA SUBMISSION MIGHT BE RELEASABLE AS EARLY AS JULY 4, IT WAS NOT EXPECTED NOW THAT COMMITTEE WOULD BEGIN ITS HEARINGS UNTIL EARLY AUGUST.

5. EMBOFF MADE TWO POINTS DURING DISCUSSION: A) ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS HAD APPARENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD GOA INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO EMBASSY NOTES, GOA HAD AT NO

TIME EXPLICITLY ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO PUBLISH THEM IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM. IT WAS RECALLED THAT EMBOFF HAD TOLD DFA OFFICIALS SOME WEEKS AGO THAT USUAL USG RULE IS THAT PAPERS USED IN ANY NEGOTIATION REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AT LEAST UNTIL AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. DFA OFFICIALS REMEMBERED POINT HAVING BEEN MADE. B) GOA'S DESIRE TO MAKE AS MUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC IS UNDERSTANDABLE. USG HAS SIMILAR INTEREST IN THAT IT OPERATES UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. IT IS EMBOFF'S IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT DOCUMENTS FROM NEGOTIATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ARE EXCLUDED UNDER U. S. ACT FROM BEING MADE PUBLIC BEFORE AN AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED.

6. DFA IS SENDING SEVERAL COPIES OF FINAL VERSION OF THEIR SUBMISSION IN THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO WASHINGTON WITH AN ETA OF THURSDAY, JUNE 28. COPIES OF EMBASSY NOTES REQUESTED PARA 3 REF A ARE INCLUDED IN ANNEX TO THIS SUBMISSION AS NOTED ABOVE.  
GREEN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** MARR, AS, US  
**To:** CNO WASHDC  
NAVELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119  
PM  
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